

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

July 21, 2008

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, July 21, 2008, in the media center of the Block Island School.

Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on June 16, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole presented the unaudited fiscal report through June 30, 2008. The town has requested that the school's audit be completed by August 31 and she had her first meeting with the auditor on Saturday. She explained that currently there is \$15,783 in the fund balance, but that will change when funds are received from the town and when invoices for fiscal year 2008 are paid. Mrs. Cole stated she was only able to pre-pay one month of the teachers' retirement

instead of two months as she did last year in order to capture some savings. She explained the overages in the various departments. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the unaudited fiscal report through June 30, 2008, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she has not received any viable applications for the speech/language pathologist position. She has had some interest from a retiree, but that person could only work 75-90 days per year. She plans to aggressively pursue other avenues in order to fill the position.

Mrs. Ryan explained that SORICO is now under new leadership, a company was hired to run the collaborative, and more professional development opportunities will be provided. William Padien suggested that SORICO schedule more meetings when the use of the PolyCom would allow those on Block Island to “attend.”

Mrs. Ryan plans to attend a town emergency preparedness meeting on Thursday, July 24. Mr. Padien suggested that Mrs. Ryan inquire about moving the FEMA trailer from the playground.

Mrs. Ryan met with Dr. Bertram Gibbes, a psychologist, to discuss the possibility of setting up a mental health system at the Block Island Medical Center, which is one of the goals of the School Improvement Team. He would work in conjunction with our school social worker to provide direct services to students and their families.

New Business

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to appoint James N. Nadeau and Company to complete the district's 2008-2009 annual audit at a cost of \$7,300 carried with a vote of 5-0. (Vote was 4-0-1, with Shea Butcher abstaining.)

A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint Marsha Gutierrez to serve as the district's School Committee clerk for the 2008-2009 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Tretheway, Padien) to reappoint Steven Draper as the district's Attendance Officer for the 2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint the firm of Asquith & Mahoney, LLP to provide legal services to the district on an as needed basis for the 2008-2009 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Padien) to reappoint the physician representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Padien) to reappoint the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the

2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Sean McGarry as the delegate to the Rhode Island Association of School Committees for the 2008-2009 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of Bank of America and Washington Trust Company as official bank depositories carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the designation of the Block Island Times to advertise regularly scheduled and interim School Committee meetings carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as authorized signatories of checks for the payroll and general accounts, and to approve the designation of the Principal and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent as authorized signatories of checks for the miscellaneous office accounts carried with a vote of 5-0.

The job description for the Athletic Director was submitted for review.

Mrs. Ryan suggested the following be included as a Performance Responsibility: pass all communications to athletes, families, and the community-at-large by the superintendent for perusal and permission to disseminate. She stated she was only looking for clarity and to be

kept in the loop of communication. It was suggested that one of the qualifications preferred would be a degree or certification in athletic administration. However, most felt that if this were required it would seriously limit the applicant pool. It was suggested that the stipend be incrementally increased over the next several years. Sean McGarry stated that it should be a full-time administrative position with a salary of \$35,000. Mr. Padien was not willing to spend a good portion of the fund balance to pay an Athletic Director and felt it would cause an uproar if the School Committee spent that kind of money for an athletic director when money is so tight. A motion (Butcher, Hall) to increase the stipend to \$8,000 a year based on minimum wage for 50 weeks at 20 hours per week was later withdrawn until the appropriate agenda item.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to make the following changes to the Athletic Director job description (add Preferred Qualifications: degree or certification in health, recreation, or athletic administration; add H under Performance Responsibilities to read: pass all communications to athletes, families, and the community-at-large by the superintendent for perusal and permission to disseminate; and change the wording of #2 from “necessary” staff members to other “support” staff members) carried with a vote of 5-0.

Policy HC: Athletic Compensation was updated to include the possibility of additional compensation for any coach who serves without an assistant. School Committee members made several

additional changes. A motion (Butcher, Hall) to increase the Athletic Director points from 17 to 35 for the 2008-09 school year carried with a vote of 4-1 with William Padien voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy HC: Athletic Compensation for the required 30-day period and to have it reviewed by the attorney carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request for a waiver of the fee for the use of the school cafeteria for a special financial town meeting to be held on August 7, 2008, was received from Town Clerk, Molly Fitzpatrick. A motion (Hall, Butcher) to waive the facility use fee for the special financial town meeting on August 7, 2008, carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Mrs. Ryan explained that after the new full-time special education position had been budgeted in January, further discussions were held and it was decided that in the best interests of the student a part-time (0.6 FTE) position would be sufficient. There is a part-time teacher (0.4 FTE) working with this student and she would like to continue in this capacity to maintain some consistency. In addition, a part-time teacher assistant (0.6 FTE) resigned last month and Mrs. Ryan would like to make that position full-time. She further explained that the money budgeted for the new special education position was for a fifth step teacher. A second step teacher is being recommended for the position and the remaining funds would allow for a full-time

teacher assistant. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the change of the special education position from full-time to part-time (3/5) carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the change of the teacher assistant position from part-time (3/5) to full-time carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Victoria Carson as the extended school year teacher carried with a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Carson will be compensated at her hourly rate of \$51.62.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Amy Dugan as the 2008 summer reading tutor carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Dugan will work under the direction of our reading specialist Joan Baker and provide reading services to five elementary students this summer, one-to-three time per week depending on the student's needs. She will be compensated at the rate of \$20 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Summer Riker to work one day per week during the 2008 summer session carried with a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Riker will be compensated at the rate of \$38.26 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Christie White as the speech/language pathologist for one day per week

during the 2008 summer session carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms White will be compensated at the rate of \$45 per hour.

Calendar of Events

The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2008.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 8:55 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: August 18, 2008